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10/600,565

Remarks

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated September 29, 2004. This request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct a minor typographical error.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herbenar (USP 3,790,195). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Herbenar '195 teaches a socket joint having a half sphere ball portion 20 and a stud 39. The lower bearing is defined by a resilient ring 29 and a bearing sleeve 45 that abuts the stud 39.

The present invention defines a structure for a ball pin member (1) where the ball portion is formed of two hemispherical portions (9, 10) having different diameters. The lower or second hemispherical portion 10 directly engages a lower or second elastomeric bearing member 02.

With respect to claims 1-8, the prior art, most notably Herbenar '195, fails to teach the two distinct hemispherical portions set forth in this invention. For this reason alone, the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) must be withdrawn. With respect to claim 9, the two hemispherical ball portions


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(9, 10) of claim 9 “directly engage” the two elastomeric bearing members. Herbenar ‘195, on the other hand, teaches the use of a metallic sleeve interposed between the resilient ring 29 and the stud 39 of the spherical pin 1. For this reason, the rejection of claim 9 under 35 USC 102(b) should be withdrawn.

In an effort to protect various novel features of the present invention, applicant has added new claims 10-17 which recite various structural features of the present invention not shown in the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and comments resolve all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe additional discussion would advance the prosecution of the present application, they are invited to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Matthew Stavish  
Reg. N° 36,286

Liniak, Berenato & White  
Suite 240  
6550 Rock Spring Drive  
Bethesda MD, 20817  
Tel. (301) 896-0600